

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in the present application in the same condition as set forth in Amendment B filed on September 14, 2005.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,543, issued to Storr (hereinafter *Storr*), in view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0021279, filed by Shobatake (hereinafter *Shobatake*), and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,404,740, issued to Yoshida (hereinafter *Yoshida*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

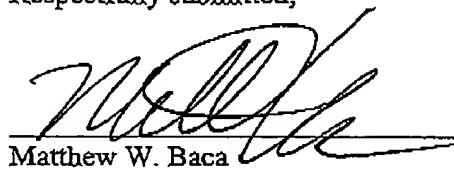
Regarding Applicants' independent claims 1 and 9, the express claim language requires a key relationship among the duplicating, marking, and transporting steps. Namely, the cells duplicated in the "duplicating" step are required by the express claim language to be the same cells that are subsequently marked in a connection-independent manner in the "marking" step. Furthermore, the cells that are duplicated and marked in a connection-independent manner must be the cells transported along the path set up between the observed switch entry point and the remote observation point.

As pointed out in the Office Action in the first paragraph of page 3, the motivation to combine a cell tagging step with *Storr's* multicasting-based cell duplication would naturally relate to indicating connections, such as the virtual circuits employed by *Storr's* multicasting flow control technique (see *Storr*, col. 6, lines 51-53). Therefore, and consistent with the reasoning used on the foregoing paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action, marking the duplicated cells in a connection-independent manner is entirely inconsistent and incompatible with any presumable motivation to combine *Shobatake's* cell tagging with *Storr's* cell duplication performed in support of cell multicasting. The assertion on page 3 of the Office Action that *Yoshida* teaches marking cells independent of the connection is unsupported and fails to explain the incongruity in the grounds supporting motivation to combine *Shobatake* (i.e. cell tagging to indicate a connection to which a cell belongs) and that offered to support combining *Yoshida* (i.e. purpose of identifying cells in a way that does not include connection information).

In sum, the grounds supporting the rejections of claims 1 and 9 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action amount to an attempt to collect individual elements and features that share no relationship whatsoever in the respective references, and to assemble these features using Applicants' claimed invention as a guide. For the foregoing reasons, and for those previously provided in Amendment B, filed on September 14, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections of claims 1, 9, and all claims depending therefrom.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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